Amendments to the Claims:
Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for characterizing a test subject's risk of developing or having cardiovascular disease, comprising:

determining levels of myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity, myeloperoxidase (MPO) mass, or both in a bodily sample from the test subject, said bodily sample being blood, serum, plasma or ~~a~~ blood ~~derivative~~ cells,

wherein elevated levels of MPO activity or MPO mass or both in blood, serum, plasma or ~~a~~ blood ~~derivative~~ cells of the test subject as compared to at least one predetermined value based on levels of MPO activity, MPO mass or both, respectively, in comparable bodily samples obtained from a population of control subjects indicates that the test subject is at risk of developing or having cardiovascular disease.

2. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the level of myeloperoxidase activity in the test subject's bodily sample is determined by flow cytometry.

3. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined values is a single normalized value or a range of normalized values and is based on the MPO activity levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of subjects.

4. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined value is a single representative value or a range of representative values and is based on the MPO activity levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

5. (withdrawn/amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined value is a plurality of predetermined MPO activity level ranges that are based on the MPO activity levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

6. (withdrawn/amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the bodily sample ~~is one or more~~ blood cells ~~derivatives~~ selected from the group consisting of leukocytes, neutrophils, monocytes, mononuclear lymphocytes, sub-populations of neutrophils, sub-populations of neutrophils, sub-populations of monocytes, and sub-populations of mononuclear lymphocytes or any combination thereof.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the levels of myeloperoxidase mass in the test subject's bodily sample is ~~obtained~~ determined by an immunological technique.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined values is a single normalized value or a range of normalized values and is based upon the MPO mass levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined values is a single representative value or a range of representative values and is based upon the MPO mass levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined value is a plurality of predetermined MPO mass level ranges which are based on the MPO mass levels in comparable bodily samples from the general population or a select population of control subjects.

11-22 canceled

23. (currently amended) A method of assessing a test subject's risk of developing or having cardiovascular disease, comprising

comparing levels ~~of one or markers~~ myeloperoxidase in blood, serum, plasma, or ~~a~~ blood ~~derivative~~ cells from the test subject with levels of ~~said one or more markers~~ myeloperoxidase in ~~a~~ blood, serum, plasma, or ~~a~~ blood ~~derivative~~ cells from a population of control subjects;

~~wherein said markers include myeloperoxidase, an MPO-generated protein oxidation product, and an MPO-generated lipid peroxidation product~~ and

wherein the difference between the levels of ~~the one or more markers~~ myeloperoxidase in blood, serum, plasma or ~~a~~ blood ~~derivative~~ cells from the test subject and the levels of ~~said one or more markers~~ myeloperoxidase in blood, serum, plasma or ~~a~~ blood ~~derivative samples~~ cells from the population of control subjects is indicative of the extent of the test subject's risk of developing or having cardiovascular disease.

24. canceled.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~7~~, wherein the test subject is ~~an apparently healthy subject~~ a, non-diabetic, non-hypertensive, non-smoker.

26. (currently amended) A method of assessing a test subject's risk of experiencing an acute adverse cardiovascular event, comprising:

determining levels of myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity, myeloperoxidase (MPO) mass, or both in blood, serum, plasma or a blood ~~derivative~~ cells from the test subject;

wherein elevated levels of MPO activity or MPO mass or both in blood, serum, plasma or a blood ~~derivative~~ cells of the test subject as compared to levels of MPO activity, MPO mass, or both, respectively in blood, serum, plasma or a blood ~~derivative~~ cells ~~samples~~ obtained from control subjects indicates that the test subject is at risk of experiencing an acute adverse cardiovascular event.

27. (currently amended) A method of determining a test subject's risk of requiring medical intervention, comprising:

determining levels of a risk predictor in a bodily sample from the test subject, wherein said risk predictor is myeloperoxidase activity, myeloperoxidase mass, ~~a myeloperoxidase-generated oxidation product,~~ or any combination thereof, and wherein said bodily sample is blood, serum, plasma or a blood ~~derivative~~ cells;

comparing levels of said risk predictor in the bodily sample of the test subject to levels of said risk predictor in comparable samples obtained from a control population,

wherein a patient whose levels of said risk predictor is characterized as being elevated in comparison to levels of said risk predictor in a comparable bodily sample obtained from individuals in a control population is at risk of requiring medical intervention.

28. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the level of myeloperoxidase in the test subject's bodily sample is determined by flow cytometry.

29. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the test subject's risk of experiencing an acute cardiovascular event is determined by comparing levels of myleperoxidase mass in the test subject's bodily sample to levels of myeloperoxidase mass in comparable samples obtained from a control population.

30. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the test subject's risk of requiring medical

intervention is determined by comparing levels of myleperoxidase mass in the test subject's bodily sample to levels of myeloperoxidase mass in comparable samples obtained from a control population.

31. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the bodily sample is blood, serum, or plasma.